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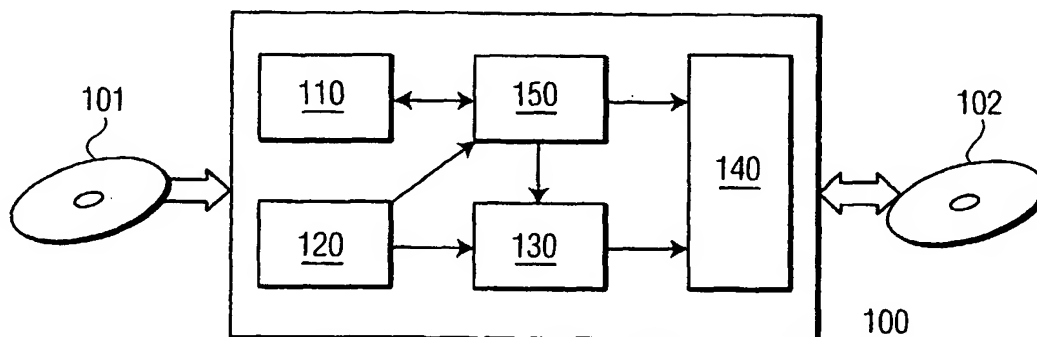
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(54) Title: CREATING EXPIRING COPIES IN A CHECK-OUT/CHECK-IN SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A check-in/check-out system (100) and method creates limited-duration copies of protected content material (101). The system is configured to allow up-to-N contemporaneous copies (102) of the protected content material. A log (110) maintains a record of the copies currently outstanding, and their expiration times, after which time a conforming rendering device will cease to render the material of this expired copy. When a copy is returned, the entry in the log is deleted (270). If a copy is not returned to the system (100) before its expiration time, the system is configured to also delete its entry from the log (201), thereby allowing another copy to be made (250) to replace the expired copy, even though the expired copy has not been returned.